Anti-India riots in Madagascar town

2262. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any information regarding anti-Indian riots in Madagascar town recently;

(b) if so, what are the details of Indians who were killed, injured and lost their property; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have received detailed reports of acts of violence against various foreigners including persons of Indian origin in different cities of Madagascar.

(b) No loss of life among persons of Indian origin has been reported. According to a preliminary assessment 150 shops and 107 houses belonging to persons of Indian origin were looted and 21 shops and 41 residences were burnt down. The situation continues to be tense.

(c) Government have urged the Government of Madagascar to extend the fullest protection to all Indians and persons of Indian origin.

Mobilisation of public opinion against US help to Pakistan

2263. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the reports about Pakistan making Atom Bomb and that US Congress will soon discuss and decide about the new military aid package to Pakistan, does Government of India have any plan to mobilise public opinion in U.S.A. and inside the US Congress particularly against the move; and

(b) what other steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have been making consistent efforts to convey to the US. Government, Members of the Congress and other sections of public opinion in the U.S., India's concerns about the supply of sophisticated arms by USA to Pakistan, the non-peaceful dimensions of Pakistan's nuclear programme and the adverse consequences of these developments.

(b) Government are alert to developments having a bearing on India's security.

Tissue culture for tree saplings

2264. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tissue culture technique for production of tree saplings has been perfected several years ago by NPL and other laboratories including JNU and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) how many saplings have been produced and planted so far by using this technique and with what survival rate; and

(c) whether a mission-oriented project would be launched for speedy afforestation in the country?